UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/736
8 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 112 (b)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

# Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections

## Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS


| | | Paragraphs | Page |
|---|---|---|---|
| I. | INTRODUCTION | 1 - 4 | 2 |
| II. | IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 48/131 AND 49/190 | 5 - 20 | 3 |
| | A. Consolidation of electoral assistance capacities and coordination of activities | 5 - 8 | 3 |
| | B. Coordination with other organizations | 9 - 15 | 4 |
| | C. Ongoing activities | 16 - 20 | 5 |
| III. | UNITED NATIONS EXPERIENCE | 21 - 25 | 6 |
| | A. Major United Nations missions | 21 - 22 | 6 |
| | B. Support for international observers | 23 | 7 |
| | C. Technical assistance and advisory services | 24 - 25 | 7 |
| IV. | REFLECTIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITY | 26 - 29 | 7 |
| Annex. | Status of Member States' requests as of 17 October 1995 | | 9 |


95-34429 (E) 211195 231195

/...

# I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report has been prepared in response to a request by the General Assembly for the Secretary-General to report to it at its fiftieth session on the implementation of resolutions 48/131 of 20 December 1983 and 49/190 of 23 December 1994, particularly on the status of requests from Member States for electoral assistance and verification and on his efforts to enhance the Organization's support of the democratization process in Member States.

2. The information provided in the present report addresses three primary issues: (a) the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/131 and 49/190; (b) a brief discussion of United Nations experience in electoral assistance over the past year; and (c) reflections on future activities. More specific details on the status of requests and a country-by-country overview of electoral assistance activities during the past year are provided in the annex to the report.

3. Several new trends in requests for electoral assistance are becoming apparent. Fewer large-scale verification missions, such as the Nicaraguan elections in 1989, will be required. In contrast, demand is increasing for smaller and more economical forms of electoral assistance, such as technical assistance and the provision of coordination and support for international observers. The focus of international efforts is shifting from short-term preoccupation with the events of a particular election day to more longer-term considerations related to the development and strengthening of electoral institutions and processes. In this context, additional efforts are being made to enhance cooperation with other international, governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate more comprehensive and need-specific responses to requests for electoral assistance.

4. The provision of electoral assistance is undertaken only on the basis of a formal request from the Government concerned. In response, the Electoral Assistance Division in the Department of Political Affairs advises the focal point as to the most appropriate action to be taken. All requests are given serious consideration; however, in some cases the Division may recommend against a United Nations role, particularly if its contribution is considered primarily symbolic, the lead time too short or the electoral context inappropriate. As stated in previous reports, electoral assistance should ultimately be a limited service provided by the United Nations in cases where national capacity requires external short-term support. The purpose of electoral assistance is to assist Governments in achieving their own full capacity as soon as possible.

## II. IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 48/131 AND 49/190

### A. Consolidation of electoral assistance capacities and coordination of activities

5. In July 1995, managerial responsibility for the Electoral Assistance Division was returned from the Department of Peace-keeping Operations to the Department of Political Affairs. This decision was taken in view of the expected fall in the number of large-scale peace-keeping missions with an electoral component. During the past year, Haiti has been the only such case. Based on recent experience, the activities of the Division will focus increasingly on a high volume of smaller electoral assistance missions unrelated to peace-keeping.

6. As a consequence, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to serve as the new focal point for United Nations electoral assistance activities. All requests for electoral assistance should now be forwarded to Mr. Goulding. As in the past, the focal point will recommend to the Secretary-General, with the technical support of the Electoral Assistance Division, the most appropriate United Nations response to requests for electoral assistance.

7. Cooperation on electoral assistance activities by various units within the United Nations system has continued to be effective. Primary partners include the Department for Development Support and Management Services and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), particularly its Management Development and Governance Division. UNDP resident coordinators and representatives frequently provide critical background and support to electoral assistance efforts and are instrumental in arranging the necessary financing for such projects. United Nations Volunteers have demonstrated their dedication and professional excellence in a variety of missions; they will be a valuable resource for the staffing of future electoral assistance missions. The United Nations Centre for Human Rights continues to provide essential advisory services in its field of expertise.

8. In the report of November 1994 (A/49/675 and Corr.1), several plans for the systematic retrieval and utilization of the experience of past missions were discussed. Some of those proposals, particularly the maintenance of close contact with field missions, have been implemented. Others, particularly the preparation of mission guidelines and technical handbooks, have been delayed, largely due to the priority which must necessarily be given to requests for assistance from Member States. Because the timing of such requests is difficult to predict, the workload of the Division must be adjusted constantly as new requests for assistance are received. The preparation of guidelines and handbooks, and the proposed organization of workshops for electoral consultants, are secondary priorities, to be undertaken in periods when the demand for priority outputs is low. In 1995, an increased workload, together with the secondment of two officers of the Electoral Assistance Division to Haiti and other field missions, left little time available for such long-term projects. It is hoped that this situation will be remedied in 1996.

## B. Coordination with other organizations

9. Coordination of United Nations electoral assistance activities with those of other organizations has continued to be effective and beneficial to both the receiving Governments and the organizations providing assistance. Over the past year, particular progress was made in strengthening cooperative arrangements with regional organizations. Two recent experiences, with the Organization of American States (OAS) in Haiti and with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Armenia, have demonstrated the positive results of such cooperation for the requesting Government, the assisting organizations and the relevant donors. It is hoped that such cooperation will be further developed with these and other organizations in future missions.

10. In Haiti, over the past year, the United Nations and OAS have shared in the provision of electoral assistance by dividing between them the responsibilities for assisting the conduct of the electoral process and for international observation, respectively. At the request of the Government of Haiti, the United Nations provided an electoral assistance team to assist the Haitian Provisional Electoral Council in establishing the necessary infrastructure for the conduct of parliamentary and local elections. The International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH), a joint operation of the United Nations and OAS, monitored important human rights aspects of the electoral campaign, such as freedoms of speech and association. OAS took responsibility for organizing and deploying international observers for the elections, recruiting observers primarily from among OAS staff. However, MICIVIH provided supplemental observers for the OAS observation of the June parliamentary and local elections and for the complementary elections held in August. This division of labour was economical and practical in allowing each organization to focus on planning and implementing one specific area of mission responsibility. More detailed information on the mission is provided in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) (S/1995/305).

11. The recent elections in Armenia provided an opportunity for the United Nations and OSCE to share, for the first time, in establishing a joint secretariat to provide coordination and support for international observers. The secretariat was established early in May; the first observers arrived in June. Representatives of the two organizations cooperated on all aspects of the mission, including the deployment of observers and the coordination of technical assistance for the electoral commission. Interim and final statements on the electoral process were also prepared jointly.

12. Based on the success of the United Nations/OSCE mission in Armenia, a similar mission is now being organized at the request of the Government of Azerbaijan in order to provide coordination and support for international observers arriving for the national elections in November. This form of United Nations electoral assistance, first utilized in Ethiopia in 1992, has proved highly effective and economical. Since 1992, it has been used with good results for elections in such countries as Lesotho, Malawi, Niger and, currently, the United Republic of Tanzania. This approach to electoral assistance is clearly becoming the method of choice.

13. From 28 to 30 April 1995, a charter-drafting committee meeting was held in Capetown, South Africa, in order to prepare for the inauguration of the African Association of Election Administrators. The founding of this Association was one of the results of the November 1994 Colloquium on African Election Administration (A/49/675, annex II). The Capetown meeting provided an opportunity for participants to review and adopt a charter for the Association and to develop a plan and programme of action to advance the democratization process in Africa.

14. The Secretary-General welcomed the founding, in February 1995, of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), an intergovernmental organization based in Stockholm. The four basic fields of the Institute are: (a) the creation of a databank and provision of information services; (b) research; (c) the establishment and promotion of guidelines; and (d) the provision of capacity-building and advisory services. IDEA promises to be a valuable new international partner in the study and provision of electoral assistance and democratization.

15. The Electoral Assistance Division, together with IDEA, sponsored a round table on international observation of elections in Stockholm from 10 to 12 October 1995. The round table provided an opportunity for a small group of senior election experts: (a) to examine recent electoral observation experiences and assess the actual value of an international observer presence for elections; (b) to encourage discussion of critical issues and promote discussion of possible standards and guidelines for election observation; and (c) to explore the possibilities for greater coordination among observer delegations and sponsoring organizations. A report on the proceedings of the round table is currently in preparation.

## C. Ongoing activities

16. In accordance with resolution 46/137 of 17 December 1991, the Electoral Assistance Division continues to maintain and expand its roster of electoral experts. Approximately 250 curricula vitae are received each year for possible addition to the roster. The roster now includes experts from a wide variety of electoral fields, as indicated in last year's report (A/49/675, annex II). Efforts are currently under way to computerize the roster for more efficient maintenance and retrieval of names.

17. As of 23 October 1995, the United Nations Trust Fund for Electoral Observation held a total balance of US$ 1,479,509. This balance reflects contributions from such countries as Austria, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, since the creation of the Fund in 1992.

18. The Electoral Assistance Division is currently planning the preparation of a series of technical papers on specific issues such as election budget preparation, alternative electoral systems, voter identification card development, ballot-counting procedures and delimitation of constituency and polling district boundaries. Each paper will be reviewed by two or three

experts in the field concerned. The purpose of the papers is to provide authoritative information and easy reference for national election officials, thereby assisting them in the conduct of their work and decreasing the need for external consultancies.

19. The Electoral Assistance Division is also initiating the preparation of a series of manuals on the planning and implementation of particular types of electoral assistance. The first manual to be produced will relate to the provision of coordination and support for international observers. Standardized checklists and other observation materials will also be prepared on the basis of similar materials used in past missions.

20. In addition to these technical publications, the Electoral Assistance Division, together with the Department of Public Information, is currently preparing a volume in the Blue Books Series on United Nations electoral assistance, which will be published early in 1996. The Division continues to publish, on a regular basis, a monthly bulletin entitled Electoral Assistance Activities of the United Nations System. The bulletin provides the basis for a six-month report and the more comprehensive annual report on the electoral assistance activities of the United Nations system.

## III. UNITED NATIONS EXPERIENCE

### A. Major United Nations missions

21. The only major electoral mission of the past year was undertaken in Haiti as part of the larger United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). As reported earlier, based on an agreement between the United Nations and OAS, the United Nations was responsible for the provision of technical and advisory services to the Provisional Electoral Council. OAS took responsibility for organizing the international observation of elections. In fulfilling its mandate, the United Nations established a 17-person electoral assistance team within the UNMIH framework in order to assist the Commission in preparing and conducting the parliamentary and local government elections held on 25 June 1995 and the complementary elections held on 13 August 1995. Additional rounds of elections took place on 17 September and 8 October 1995. The team assisted with such activities as voter registration, the resolution of technical issues, for example balloting procedure and procurement, and election material logistics. It also contributed significantly to the coordination of financial and logistical arrangements related to elections, as well as of the support provided by the military and police components, which was essential for the successful conduct of the mission.

22. It is anticipated that the team will remain in Haiti in order to assist with the presidential elections scheduled for 17 December 1995 and a possible second round early in 1996. Additional details regarding the mission are contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Haiti (S/1995/305).

### B. Support for international observers

23. Between 16 October 1994 and 17 October 1995, the Electoral Assistance Division organized an international observation mission, with OSCE, for the elections held in Armenia on 5 and 19 July 1995. This mission is described in paragraph 11 above. Some 90 observers were provided by 18 Governments, and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and deployed throughout the country. Following a common debriefing session, the observers issued a statement on the campaign, the conduct of the elections and the vote count.

### C. Technical assistance and advisory services

24. In the year since 17 October 1994, the United Nations system has provided technical assistance or advisory services to 19 Member States. In some cases, several types of assistance were provided; in other cases, assistance was provided as a single discrete project. Such assistance continues to be that most frequently requested and is often combined with other forms of assistance, such as the coordination of international observers. Technical assistance is generally highly cost-effective and oriented towards increasing national capacity in the particular field.

25. Among the types of technical assistance and advisory services provided over the past year were advice on electoral systems and methods of power-sharing, assistance with computerization, election logistics and procurement, preparation of a census and identity cards, review and amendment of electoral laws and training of electoral officials and national observers. Technical and advisory services are provided by the Electoral Assistance Division, the Department for Development Support and Management Services, UNDP and the Centre for Human Rights, depending on the expertise required. UNDP has also been particularly instrumental in facilitating funding for such projects.

## IV. REFLECTIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITY

26. As noted in the introduction to the present report, recent experience has indicated that the need for large-scale electoral assistance missions is declining. This change may reflect a more general evolution of the context in which electoral assistance is provided. The report entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies" (A/50/332) reflects more generally on this issue. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, many Governments faced the conduct of multi-party elections for the first time. Such elections often led to major changes in political processes, structures and participants. As of 1995, however, many Governments have had at least one experience of conducting such elections. Their assistance needs, if any, are now more limited and more readily defined than in the past. The result is a growing need for specific types of expert assistance, aimed at supporting and strengthening the existing capability of a requesting Government. A proliferation of requests for this type of assistance signals the beginning of a new, "second-generation" phase in the provision of electoral assistance.

27. As the demand for electoral assistance shifts away from large-scale verification missions to smaller and more economical assistance projects, the emphasis on capacity-building has become more pronounced. In this context, consideration is being given to the provision of more "client-oriented" forms of assistance. One such form of assistance would be the use of teams of highly qualified and well-known experts in order to review and provide an objective assessment of existing electoral systems and procedures. The assessment could be provided at early stages in the process and focus on the electoral law and registration procedures. A second option would be to send a small group of senior experts during the last phase of an electoral process in order to review, observe and assess the logistic arrangements and procedures for polling and counting. Although the experts might help to build confidence in the electoral systems, the main focus of such assessments would be to provide Governments and electoral commissions with advice on the streamlining, improvement and strengthening of their existing electoral institutions and procedures. I believe this approach would be especially useful for the forthcoming "second generation" of pluralistic elections.

28. As mentioned in last year's report (A/49/675 and Corr.1), the Electoral Assistance Division is an important source of information regarding past mission experience, current practice and technical advice. In order to provide ready reference for those engaged in planning an election or organizing future electoral assistance missions, the preparation of a variety of technical papers and manuals has been planned. However, such publications are necessarily of secondary importance if government requests for assistance are received or if a large-scale mission must be organized. For the present, no new major missions have been mandated for the next year; this hiatus may afford the opportunity to make significant progress in preparing the planned documents.

29. The United Nations will continue to make every effort to provide the electoral assistance that is most appropriate to the needs expressed by Member States. Although there are now several useful approaches that can be combined and adapted to suit particular needs, it is hoped that electoral assistance will shift increasingly to smaller, more supportive and capacity-building projects. The Secretary-General is also committed to enhancing cooperation with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in this field. By maintaining flexibility with regard to approach and by coordinating with other organizations, it will be possible to respond effectively and efficiently to the new demands anticipated for the future.

ANNEX

Status of Member States' requests as of 17 October 1995

Based on information received as of 23 October 1995, the electoral assistance activities of the United Nations between 18 October 1994 and 17 October 1995 are provided below according to country.

ALGERIA

Request: On 6 August 1995, the Government of Algeria requested the Secretary-General to send United Nations observers to follow the presidential elections scheduled for November 1995.

Action taken: In September 1995, the Director of the Electoral Assistance Division and an officer from the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator conducted a needs assessment mission. The members of the team subsequently submitted their reports. The United Nations plans to send six observers in November 1995 to follow the final stage of the electoral process and to report to the United Nations on its conduct and outcome.

ARMENIA

Request: On 13 January 1995, the Secretary-General received a letter from the Government of Armenia requesting United Nations assistance in coordinating international observers and supporting national observers for the upcoming elections.

Action taken: In late February 1995, an officer from the Electoral Assistance Division was sent to the country to assess the overall political situation and the possibilities for United Nations support. The officer returned in April 1995 to establish a Joint Operation Unit with a representative of OSCE. The purpose of the joint operation was to coordinate and support activities of the international observers. On election day, 5 July 1995, the joint operation deployed over 90 observers throughout the country to observe the conduct of the elections, and the United Nations and OSCE subsequently presented a joint report. The second round of elections took place on 19 July 1995, and on 2 August the OSCE/United Nations Joint Operation for the Election Monitoring in Armenia issued a final press release. A comprehensive report was prepared thereafter.

AZERBAIJAN

Request: In June 1995, the Government requested the United Nations to send a needs assessment mission in connection with the election scheduled for 12 November 1995.

Action taken: In mid-June 1995, an officer from the Electoral Assistance Division and a representative of OSCE visited the country to conduct a needs assessment mission. In late September 1995, a United Nations consultant was sent to establish an OSCE/United Nations Joint Observer Mission, and a second consultant joined the team in October 1995.

BANGLADESH

Request: In February 1995, the Resident Representative of UNDP in Bangladesh informed the focal point for electoral assistance that the Government had requested the fielding of a needs assessment mission on electoral assistance for the next general elections.

Action taken: In March 1995, the Director of the Electoral Assistance Division visited the country and prepared a report with recommendations on future assistance.

BENIN

Request: On 6 March 1995, the Government of Benin, through UNDP, sent a request for United Nations assistance to coordinate the international observers invited for the legislative elections scheduled for 28 March 1995.

Action taken: Owing to the lack of lead time, the United Nations Secretariat could not provide assistance. However, a coordination committee composed of the UNDP office in Benin, the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT), the Study and Research Group on Democracy, Economic and Social Development in Africa (GERDDES-Africa), and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), was established to coordinate the activities of international observers monitoring the elections.

BRAZIL

Request: In November 1993, the Supreme Electoral Court requested technical assistance for the computerization of the electoral system in Brazil (see A/49/675, annex I).

Action taken: A UNDP technical assistance project (BRA/93/035) was established. Under the provisions of that project, in September 1995 the Resident Representative in the country requested a mission composed of two to four experts to travel to Brazil for one to two weeks in order to advise the electoral authorities on the purchase of an electronic voting system.

CHAD

Request: On 3 January 1995, the Government sent a request to the Secretary-General for assistance in the electoral process taking place in Chad.

Action taken: Under the provisions of an existing UNDP project (CHD/94/501), a consultant conducted a needs assessment mission in March 1995 and prepared a report. A separate UNDP technical assistance project (CHD/95/004), to be implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services, was signed in September 1995. Through the project, the United Nations will provide technical, material and financial assistance to the electoral process in Chad.

CONGO

Request: In March 1995, UNDP informed the Electoral Assistance Division that the Government of Congo had requested the

participation of international observers for the last phase of the legislative elections scheduled for 9 April 1995.

Action taken: The United Nations informed the Government that, owing to the lack of lead time, it would not be possible to organize an effective observation mission.

COTE D'IVOIRE

Request: In April 1995, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire requested the Secretary-General to provide observers for the elections scheduled for the last quarter of 1995.

Action taken: In June 1995, an officer from the Department for Development Support and Management Services and a consultant conducted a needs assessment mission to evaluate the situation in the country and the possibilities for United Nations involvement. Subsequently, under the provisions of a UNDP project (IVC/95/001), implemented by the Department, an electoral consultant travelled to the country early in September to meet with the donor community. The consultant returned to the country at the end of September to coordinate the international observers for the presidential elections to be held on 22 October 1995. However, owing to the opposition parties' withdrawal from the electoral process, many countries decided not to send observers. The United Nations consultant will remain in the country throughout the process, in order to submit a report to the United Nations on the conduct and outcome of the elections.

EL SALVADOR

Request: Early in 1995, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal requested United Nations involvement in the discussion of reforms to the electoral system and the introduction of a national identification document.

Action taken: In February 1995, under the provisions of a UNDP project (ELS/93/L04), a mission led by the Director of the Electoral Assistance Division and composed of an officer from the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and three international experts visited the country. A two-day forum on the implementation of the recommended reforms immediately followed the mission. An electoral expert from Nicaragua and three specialists from Mexico joined the forum to share their experiences with electoral reform.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Request: In connection with an existing UNDP technical assistance project (EQG/93/002) implemented by the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the Government requested assistance in connection with the census exercise taking place in the country. In August 1995, the Government further requested the United Nations to send two observers for the municipal elections scheduled for 17 September 1995.

Action taken: In February 1995, a census expert was sent to the country. Other assistance included financial support for the

recruitment, training and transport of census agents, as well as for the printing of identity cards. Regarding the request for United Nations observers, an electoral expert joined the census expert, who, together with other international obs ers, monitored the polling exercise. A report has been ubmitted.

ETHIOPIA

Request: With the Government's agreement, the Donor Election Unit, which had been established in February 1995 by the international donor community to monitor the electoral process leading up to the national and regional elections held on 7 May 1995, requested UNDP to provide management and logistical support to the Unit.

Action taken: UNDP provided support to the Unit in monitoring the electoral process.

FIJI

Request: In July 1995, the United Nations received a request from the Chairman of the Fiji Constitution Review Commission for assistance in identifying experts on electoral systems and methods of "power-sharing" in multi-ethnic societies, and for possible financial support.

Action taken: The Electoral Assistance Division recommended several experts to the Commission, which subsequently selected five experts, to be funded by the United Nations, to prepare the papers. The papers are to be submitted to the Commission by December 1995.

GABON

Request: In May 1995, the Resident Representative of UNDP in the country notified the Electoral Assistance Division that the Government had requested a needs assessment mission.

Action taken: In July 1995, an officer of the Department for Development Support and Management Services and an electoral expert conducted a mission, and a report was subsequently presented. Alternative options for further involvement are under consideration.

GAMBIA

Request: In April 1995, the Government of the Gambia sent a request to the Secretary-General for United Nations assistance with the 1996 elections.

Action taken: In May 1995, an officer from the Department for Development Support and Management Services and an electoral expert conducted a needs assessment mission and prepared a project document. In August 1995, under the provisions of a UNDP project (GAM/95/005), to be implemented by the Department, the United Nations sent a consultant to assist the electoral authorities in reviewing the existing electoral law. The United Nations also plans to send two consultants in October 1995 to provide technical assistance to the electoral authorities. In

addition, three United Nations Volunteers will be recruited to assist in training, logistics and computerization.

GUINEA

Request: In April 1995, the Government of Guinea sent a request to the Secretary-General for observers to the legislative elections scheduled for 11 June 1995.

Action taken: In June 1995, the United Nations sent an officer from the Department of Political Affairs to follow the conclusion of the electoral process and to prepare an internal report.

HAITI

Request: On 30 September 1994, the Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations sent a letter to the Secretary-General requesting technical and operational assistance during the forthcoming electoral process (see A/49/675, annex I).

Action taken: In November 1994, a technical assistance team, headed by a staff member of the Electoral Assistance Division, was sent to Haiti to assist the electoral authorities in organizing the electoral process. UNMIH also staffed a small electoral component. In February 1995, a United Nations Trust Fund for Electoral Assistance to Haiti was established to provide financial assistance to the electoral process. The first round of the legislative elections was held on 25 June 1995, but owing to numerous problems, it had to be repeated in some constituencies. In August 1995, a team composed of the Director of the Electoral Assistance Division and a senior policy adviser from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) visited Haiti to review the ongoing technical assistance being provided to the electoral authorities. The partial legislative elections took place on 13 August 1995, and the second round on 17 September 1995. Further partial elections took place on 8 October 1995.

HONDURAS

Request: In March 1994, the Government requested assistance in reforming the electoral system in order to create greater operational transparency (see A/49/675, annex I).

Action taken: In March 1995, the Electoral Assistance Division, in cooperation with UNDP, organized a forum on updating the civilian and electoral registers in Honduras. Three electoral consultants from Latin America were invited to share their countries' respective experiences and to conduct comparative studies. A staff member from the Department of Peace-keeping Operations represented the Division at the forum.

KYRGYZSTAN

Request: In December 1994, the Government sent a request for United Nations assistance in connection with the elections scheduled for February 1995. In October 1995, the Government requested United Nations support to the Election Commission in connection with the presidential elections to be held on 24 December 1995.

Action taken: The United Nations assisted with the organization of regional seminars designed to train some 6,000 electoral officials, candidates and members of the local community. In addition, an officer from the Electoral Assistance Division travelled to the country to observe the parliamentary elections held on 5 February 1995 (first round) and 19 February 1995 (second round), and to assess the need for post-election assistance. Subsequently, the officer presented a report on the conduct and outcome of the electoral process.

LIBERIA

Request: On 11 February 1992, the Government requested technical and financial assistance for the electoral process (see A/48/590, annex, and A/49/675, annex I).

Action taken: In March 1995, an officer from the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the implementing agency for a UNDP project (LIR/92/001), travelled to the country to assess the status of the existing technical assistance project. In the light of the political instability in the country at that time, the project was held in abeyance. On 19 August 1995, the Liberian parties signed a peace agreement in Abuja. In accordance with the agreement, elections are scheduled to take place on 20 August 1996. A United Nations technical team, currently in the country to review the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL), will prepare recommendations based on the present situation. The electoral technical assistance project will also be reviewed.

MEXICO

Request: Late in May 1994, the Government requested technical and financial assistance to national observers for the elections scheduled for 21 August 1994 (see A/49/675, annex I). In addition, in September 1995, the electoral authorities requested the Electoral Assistance Division to assist them in organizing a seminar on "Conditions for fair electoral competition: access to mass media and campaign financing".

Action taken: Through a project implemented by UNDP/Office for Project Services, the Electoral Assistance Division assisted the electoral authorities in Mexico by providing support to local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Further support was requested in connection with elections at the state level. A mission travelled to the country in May 1995 in order to finalize the previous project and to meet with the electoral authorities regarding future activities. The seminar, which was previously scheduled to take place in Mexico City in November 1995, has been postponed to 1996. The Division is assisting the Mexican electoral authorities in identifying participants for the seminar.

MOZAMBIQUE

Request: Under the terms of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique of 4 October 1992, the United Nations was invited to

observe the elections scheduled to take place within a year of its signing (see A/48/590, annex, and A/49/675, annex I).

Action taken: The presidential and parliamentary elections were held from 27 to 29 October 1994. Over 2,300 international electoral observers were deployed throughout the country to observe the polling. Although the counting process took longer than initially foreseen, the elections were declared free and fair by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The electoral activities of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) have been described in detail in the following reports to the Security Council: S/1994/89 and Add.1 and 2, S/1994/511, S/1994/803, S/1994/1002, S/1994/1009, S/1994/1196 and S/1994/1449. In addition, in March 1995, an officer from the Department for Development Support and Management Services travelled to the country in order to close the UNDP technical assistance project for support to the electoral authorities. In addition, a team led by the same officer, and composed of three other electoral experts, was created to provide assistance to the government programme for democracy building. The mission's purpose was to identify the priority needs and types of assistance most likely to contribute to the building of democratic institutions and processes during the early post-electoral period in Mozambique, and to establish the framework for the formulation of a post-election assistance programme. The mission presented its report to UNDP and donor representatives in Maputo.

NAMIBIA

Request: In July 1994, the Government requested assistance in the coordination of international and national observers for the general elections scheduled for December 1994 (see A/49/675, annex I).

Action taken: In November 1994 the United Nations provided a short-term consultant to assist the Director of Elections' with arrangements for international observers, who were provided mainly by diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited to Namibia. The first post-independence general elections were held on 7 and 8 December 1994 and were observed by over 150 international and national observers. The consultant has submitted a general report on the observation.

NICARAGUA

Request: On 27 September 1995, the Government of Nicaragua addressed a request to the Secretary-General for United Nations observers for the electoral process culminating with the general elections scheduled for November 1996.

Action taken: The request is currently under consideration.

NIGER

Request: In December 1994, the Foreign Minister of Niger invited the United Nations to send observers to the parliamentary elections scheduled for January 1995.

Action taken: In late December 1994, the United Nations sent a consultant to the country to advise the electoral authorities and the donor community on the electoral process.

PANAMA

Request: In November 1993, the Government requested UNDP to provide technical assistance to the Electoral Tribunal (A/49/675, annex I).

Action taken: The United Nations continues to provide technical assistance, under the provisions of a UNDP project (PAN/93/006). It is planned that in November 1995 an informatics expert will be sent to the country to provide further assistance.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Request: In February 1995, the Government of the Republic of Moldova sent a letter, through the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, requesting observers for the referendum scheduled for 5 March 1995.

Action taken: The United Nations Secretariat could not provide assistance owing to insufficient lead time.

SIERRA LEONE

Request: In March 1994, the Government requested technical assistance in the planning and organization of the forthcoming elections (see A/49/675, annex I).

Action taken: In November 1994, a needs assessment mission comprising an officer from the Electoral Assistance Division and a consultant travelled to the country to consult with the authorities and identify priority electoral assistance needs. A mission report was prepared, including a budget proposal for assistance to the electoral process. In February 1995, under the provisions of a UNDP project (SIL/93/011) being implemented by the Department for Development Support and Management Services, a United Nations officer travelled to the country to discuss the mechanisms for electoral assistance and to meet with the donor community. In June 1995, under the same project, an electoral expert was sent to assist the Electoral Commission. A National Consultative Conference on the Electoral Process was held in Freetown from 15 to 17 August 1995. The Conference decided that the presidential and parliamentary elections should be held simultaneously in February 1996, and that international observers should be invited to monitor the entire electoral process. The Conference also decided that the elections be based on a proportional representation system. Accordingly, the Chairman of the Interim National Electoral Commission requested the United Nations to advise the Commission on the system. The Electoral Assistance Division identified an expert, who travelled to Sierra Leone at the end of September for a period of two weeks. In addition, a chief technical adviser to the UNDP project will be sent shortly to assist the electoral authorities in organizing the entire electoral process.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Request: Within the good offices function of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the former Yugoslavia provided for in paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 908 (1994) of 31 March 1994, the President of Parliament invited the Special Representative to observe the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for October 1994.

Action taken: An officer from the Special Representative's Office joined the then Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) (subsequently renamed the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)), the Council of Europe and other international organizations in monitoring the elections.

UGANDA

Request: In June 1995, in connection with the presidential and parliamentary elections to be scheduled, the Government requested further United Nations technical assistance to be provided to the Electoral Commission.

Action taken: A new UNDP project document is currently being reviewed. The Electoral Assistance Division is identifying a chief technical adviser and a consultant on civic education to assist the Electoral Commission under the provisions of the project.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Request: In March 1995, UNDP informed the Electoral Assistance Division that the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania intended to request the participation of international observers in the elections scheduled for October 1995, and requested assistance in the planning of United Nations involvement. In June 1995, the Government sent a request to the United Nations to send observers and to coordinate the activities of the international observers.

Action taken: In May 1995, an officer from the Electoral Assistance Division and a consultant conducted a needs assessment mission. In August 1995, under the provisions of a UNDP project (URT/95/006), implemented by the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the United Nations sent one electoral expert to work in close coordination with the Chairman of the National Elections Commission and another consultant to assist in the coordination of the international observers present during the ongoing electoral process. In addition, the Government of Canada provided a consultant to assist the Zanzibar Elections Commission. Elections are scheduled for 22 October 1995 in Zanzibar and 29 October 1995 in the entire country.

UZBEKISTAN

Request: On 24 October 1994, the Government invited a group of United Nations observers to monitor the parliamentary elections scheduled for 25 December 1994.

Action taken: Owing to the short lead time, the Resident Coordinator in the country was requested to follow the electoral process closely and report to the Secretary-General on its conduct and outcome.

ZIMBABWE

Request: In May 1995, the Resident Representative of UNDP, at the request of the Zimbabwe Electoral Supervisory Commission, sought background information on setting up provincial offices to facilitate the supervision of the electoral process with the support of the NGO community.

Action taken: The Electoral Assistance Division provided a short note on the issue.

---